

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 07816 071451Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

USSS-00 /026 W

----- 041963

O 071357Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0009

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 7816

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: A) BEIRUT 11891; (B) BEIRUT 11877; (C) BEIRUT 11878

1. AS I READ REFTELS, IMPLIED RECOMMENDATION IS FOR US TO TAKE LEAD OR AT LEAST JOINT IN CALL FOR CEASEFIRE WHILE EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ARE STILL IN POSSESSION OF TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL AS RESULT OF JUNE 1967 WAR.

2. MOOD HERE, AMONG BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS, IS PRETTY GRIM. IN THIS RESPECT, ALTHOUGH OPPOSING SIDES HAVE LONG DEBATED JUST WHO STARTED '67 WAR, IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS BASED ON AVAILABLE EVIDENCE THAT SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS STARTED THE OCT '73
SECRET

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WAR. I ASSUME WE HAVE GOOD TACTICAL REASONS FOR NOT STATING THIS PUBLICLY, BUT I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT ALL CONCERNED RECOGNIZE THIS.

3. MY DATT HAS JUST RETURNED FROM IDF BRIEFING WHICH STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT AS A RESULT ARAB ATTACK -- AND FAILURE OF ISRAEL TO LAUNCH PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES DUE PRIMARILY, I BELIEVE, TO RECOGNITION OF OUR CONCERNS --- BATTLE ON BOTH FRONTS WILL PROVE TO BE QUITE COSTLY IN TERMS OF ISRAELI BLOOD. IF, AFTER REGAINING ITS BALANCE, AS IS EXPECTED, ISRAEL TAKES MILITARY INITIATIVE GOI WILL BE IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN TO ANY GOVERNMENT OR GROUP OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH SEEK TO RESTRAIN ITS ARMED FORCES FROM THROWING AGGRESSORS AT LEAST BACK TO STARTING POINT.

4. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, SHOULD WE ATTEMPT SUCH A PLOY, THIS WOULD INITIALLY RESULT IN BENEFIT TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ARABS; GOI WOULD IGNORE ANY SUCH CALL, CLOBBER THE ARABS WHO PREDICTABLY WOULD TURN ON US. WE WOULD GAIN NOTHING, AND LOSE A LOT OF PRESTIGE AND AT LEAST SOME INFLUENCE WITH THE ISRAELIS. WE ARE PROBABLY GOING TO NEED ALL THE INFLUENCE WE CAN MUSTER WHEN THE TIDE FINALLY TURNS IF WE HOPE TO RESTRAIN ISRAELIS FROM GOING AFTER WHAT REMAINS OF ENEMY ARMOR AND AIR IN EGYPT AND SYRIA.

5. I STRONGLY ENDORSE, THEREFORE POSITION OUTLINED IN PARA 5 OF STATE 199688 AND URGE THAT WE STICK TO THIS POSTURE IN UN CONTEXT. KEATING

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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